CLAIMS

1.   (Currently Amended) A <u>computer-implemented</u> method of sharing an instant

messaging environment comprising:

~~selecting the instant messaging environment from a set of stored instant messaging~~

~~environments;~~

transmitting an instant messaging environment identifier corresponding to <u>a</u> ~~the~~

selected instant messaging environment from a transmitting instant messaging

application to a receiving instant messenger application;

receiving the instant messaging environment identifier at the receiving instant

messenger application;

~~retrieving the stored instant messaging environment corresponding to the instant~~

~~messaging environment identifier;~~ and

activating the <u>selected</u> instant messaging environment in the receiving instant

messaging application.

2.   (Original) A method of sharing an instant messaging environment as recited in claim

1 further including determining whether the transmitting instant messaging

application is an eligible instant messaging application.

3.   (Currently Amended) A method of sharing an instant messaging environment as

recited in claim 1 further including determining whether the selected instant

messaging environment corresponding to the transmitted instant messaging

environment identifier is stored on <u>a node comprising</u> the receiving instant messaging

application.

4.   (Original) A method of sharing an instant messaging environment as recited in claim

1 further including determining whether the selected instant messaging environment

corresponding to the transmitted instant messaging environment identifier has

expired.

5.   (Original) A method of sharing an instant messaging environment as recited in claim

1 further including downloading the selected instant messaging environment from a

source that stores the selected instant messaging environment.

6.   (Original) A method of sharing an instant messaging environment as recited in claim

1 wherein the instant messaging environment identifier is transmitted with an instant

message.

7.   (Currently Amended) A method of sharing an instant messaging environment as

recited in claim 1 wherein the selected instant messaging environment specifies a

background for a history window.

8.   (Currently Amended) A method of sharing an instant messaging environment as

recited in claim 1 wherein the selected instant messaging environment specifies an

animation for a history window.

9.   (Currently Amended) A method of sharing an instant messaging environment as

recited in claim 1 wherein the selected instant messaging environment specifies

functions that execute when certain words are included in a message.

10. (Currently Amended) A method of sharing an instant messaging environment as recited in claim 1 wherein the selected instant messaging environment specifies functions that execute when certain combinations of words are included in a message.

11. (Currently Amended) A method of sharing an instant messaging environment as recited in claim 1 wherein the selected instant messaging environment specifies functions that execute when certain emoticons are included in a message.

12. (Currently Amended) A method of sharing an instant messaging environment as recited in claim 1 wherein the selected instant messaging environment includes a link.

13. (Currently Amended) A method of sharing an instant messaging environment as recited in claim 1 wherein the selected instant messaging environment includes a watermark.

14. (Currently Amended) A method of sharing an instant messaging environment as recited in claim 1 wherein the selected instant messaging environment redefines user interface commands.

15. (Currently Amended) A method of sharing an instant messaging environment as recited in claim 1 further including tracking that whenever an instant messaging environment identifier is sent.

16. (Currently Amended) A method of sharing an instant messaging environment as recited in claim 1 further including tracking that when a certain function contained in an instant messaging environment is executed.

17.   (Withdrawn) A method of processing a user interface command in an instant

messaging application comprising:

receiving the user interface command; and

processing the user interface command in a manner specified by a predetermined

        instant messaging environment.

18.   (Withdrawn) A method of processing a user interface command in an instant

messaging application as recited in claim 17 wherein processing the user interface

command in a manner specified by a predetermined instant messaging environment

includes accessing a version of the user interface command that is redefined by the

instant messaging environment.

19.   (Withdrawn) A method of processing a user interface command in an instant

messaging application as recited in claim 17 wherein processing the user interface

command in a manner specified by a predetermined instant messaging environment

includes executing instructions specified by the instant messaging environment and

then executing the user interface command.

20.   (Withdrawn) A method of processing a user interface command in an instant

messaging application as recited in claim 17 wherein the user interface command

appends text to a history window and wherein the predetermined instant messaging

environment changes the manner in which the text appears in the history window.

21.   (Withdrawn) A method of processing a user interface command in an instant

        messaging application as recited in claim 17 wherein the user interface command is

        processed by a browser window.

22.   (Withdrawn) A method of processing a user interface command in an instant

        messaging application as recited in claim 17 wherein the user interface command is

        processed by a browser window.

23.   (Withdrawn) A method of processing a user interface command in an instant

        messaging application as recited in claim 22 wherein the user interface command is

        contained in hidden frame.

24.   (Currently Amended) A computer program product for sharing an instant messaging

        environment, the computer program product being embodied in a computer readable

        medium and comprising computer instructions for:

        selecting the instant messaging environment from a set of stored instant messaging

                environments;

        transmitting an instant messaging environment identifier corresponding to the a

                selected instant messaging environment from a transmitting instant messaging

                application to a receiving instant messenger application;

        receiving the instant messaging environment identifier at the receiving instant

                messenger application;

        retrieving the stored instant messaging environment corresponding to the instant

                messaging environment identifier; and

activating the <u>selected</u> instant messaging environment in the receiving instant

messaging application.

25.   (Currently Amended) A system for sharing an instant messaging environment

comprising a first instant messaging application configured to:

~~select the instant messaging environment from a set of stored instant messaging~~

~~environments; and~~

transmit an instant messaging environment identifier corresponding to <u>a</u> ~~the~~ selected

instant messaging environment; and a second instant messaging application

configured to:

receive the instant messaging environment identifier at the receiving instant

messenger application; and

~~retrieve the stored instant messaging environment corresponding to the instant~~

~~messaging environment identifier;~~

activate the <u>selected</u> instant messaging environment in the receiving instant

messaging application.

26.   (Currently Amended) A <u>computer-implemented</u> method of sharing an instant

messaging environment comprising:

~~selecting the instant messaging environment from a set of stored instant messaging~~

~~environments; and~~

transmitting an instant messaging environment identifier corresponding to ~~the~~ <u>a</u>

selected instant messaging environment from a transmitting instant messaging

application to a receiving instant messenger application wherein the receiving

instant messaging application is configured to:

receive the instant messaging environment identifier at the receiving instant messenger

application;

retrieve ~~the~~ a stored instant messaging environment corresponding to the instant

messaging environment identifier; and

activate the <u>retrieved</u> instant messaging environment in the receiving instant messaging

application.

27.   (Currently Amended) A computer program product for sharing an instant messaging

environment, the computer program product being embodied in a computer readable

medium and comprising computer instructions for:

selecting the instant messaging environment from a set of stored instant messaging

environments; and

transmitting an instant messaging environment identifier corresponding to the

selected instant messaging environment from a transmitting instant messaging

application to a receiving instant messenger application wherein the receiving

instant messaging application is configured to:

receive the instant messaging environment identifier at the receiving instant

messenger application;

retrieve [[the]] <u>a</u> stored instant messaging environment corresponding to the instant

messaging environment identifier; and

activate the<u>retrieved</u> instant messaging environment in the receiving instant

messaging application.

28.   (Original) A system for sharing an instant messaging environment comprising:

a memory configured to store a set of instant messaging environments;

a processor configured to select the instant messaging environment from the set of

stored instant messaging environments; and

an interface configured to transmit an instant messaging environment identifier

corresponding to the selected instant messaging environment.

29.   (Currently Amended) A computer-implemented method of implementing an instant

messaging environment comprising:

receiving an instant messaging environment identifier at a receiving instant messenger

application;

retrieving a stored instant messaging environment corresponding to the instant

messaging environment identifier; and

activating the retrieved instant messaging environment.

30.   (Currently Amended) A computer program product for implementing an instant

messaging environment, the computer program product being embodied in a

computer readable medium and comprising computer instructions for:

retrieving a stored instant messaging environment corresponding to the instant

messaging environment identifier; and

activating the retrieved instant messaging environment.

31.   (Currently Amended) A system for implementing an instant messaging environment

comprising:

10

an interface configured to receive an instant messaging environment identifier at a

receiving instant messenger application;

a memory configured to ~~retrieve a~~ store[[d]] instant messaging environment<u>s</u>

~~corresponding to the instant messaging environment identifier~~; and

a processor configured to <u>retrieve from the memory a stored instant messaging</u>

<u>environment corresponding to the instant messaging environment identifier</u>

<u>and to</u> activate the <u>retrieved</u> instant messaging environment.

32.   (Withdrawn) A computer program product for processing a user interface command

in an instant messaging application, the computer program product being embodied in

a computer readable medium and comprising computer instructions for:

receiving the user interface command; and

processing the user interface command in a manner specified by a predetermined

instant messaging environment.

33.   (Withdrawn) A system for processing a user interface command in an instant

messaging application comprising:

an interface configured to receive the user interface command; and

a processor configured to process the user interface command in a manner specified

by a predetermined instant messaging environment.